The year 1888 promises to be a year of spiene, phillical developments, one and all redounds to the glory and triumph of a

UNITED DEMOCRACY.

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Address THE SUN, New York.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 1888.

Every year, as we look back on it, seems lently eventful, yet no one who considthe present situation of the United States and Europe can doubt that 1888 is destined to stand forth conspicuous, for good or for evil, above its recent predecessors. Before the twelvemonth that begins to-day

to over we shall have witnessed another sidential election, and shall know Presidential election, control of the Federal Government for a second term of four years, or is to be again bondemned to long exclusion from political ne contest is to turn seem already indicated, although these may be mate-Hally modified, and the present broad diverce between the two great parties may be sensibly narrowed during the first months of the coming year. So, so, with the candidates; though to the superficial observer they now seem determined, there is time enough for shange also in this particular before the ing of the National Conventions. It is our hope and belief that when the National nocracy shall assemble in convention, its platform will be framed, not by men who are free traders under all circumstances and at any cost, and Democrats only when it hapas to suit them, but by men who are above things Democrats, and who are free traders only so far as they can carry out heir views on questions of political economy without imperilling the triumph of the Democratic party.

For Southern Democrats the contest which will be settled next November in volves an issue more tremendous than any mooted change in the tariff, for there is grave reason to fear that the restoration of he Republicans to ascendancy at Washington would be followed by the rigorous suppression of the present winter.

The States of Louisiana, Mississippi, the pretext don of the present white man's govern and South Carolina. By seizing the pretext hich the census offers them, and reestab-Habing black rule in those unlucky comwealths the Republicans would thence orth be relieved from the necessity of car-Ting New York. The imminence of such a danger should never be lost sight by Southern Democrats, for they best now, from their gricvous experience as well from the history of Hayti, whether the milies of white men could remain with efety in communities, all whose judicial, egislative, and administrative powers were bodged in the hands of negroes. As the buthern Democrats have most at stake oon the fortunes of their party, and will be is to shape its declarations and its tactics have faith that the Convention will do othing to jeopard their fundamental intercets, which, in our judgment, are insepa-Whether the United Kingdom shall con-

inue to be governed by Tory Ministers ughout the ensuing twelvemonth will in il likelihood depend on their ability to avert rupture of the Unionist coalition during session which will presently begin, for, pt in the contingency of England's enanglement in a European contest, no aunn session of Parliament is probable. The stions which, it can already be foreseen will be fraught with difficulty for the SALIS-BURY Cabinet will turn upon its foreign policy, on the expediency of persisting in the ement of the Crimes act, on the conditions and extent of the proposed propriations for the higher education Irish Ostholics, on the amount and guarantees of the loan demanded for the relief of Irish landlords, and on the sope and nature of the concessions in the ection of local government which have een promised to counties and municipaliin Great Britain, but from the benefit of which Ireland is to be excluded. It will be a and task to prevail on Dissident Liberals, and even upon Tories of the Carnaryon pe, to acquiesce in any further suspension the rights of public meeting and free sh in a particularly law-abiding section the kingdom, or in the shutting out of men from those local privileges which to be conferred on their fellow subjects. her, as regards the range and value of ie local powers conceded to English and h communities, will it be easy to reconle the views of an old-fashioned Tory like ord Salisbury with the democratic pro-livities of Lord Randolph Churchill and e radicalism still professed by Mr. JOHN story and Mr. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN. nother reef on which the Ministry may number is the landlord relief bill, against those principle Mr. CHAMBERLAIN and most a the seceding Liberals seem irrevocably aitted, while the attempt to propitiat Irish Catholics by a large grant for cation is certain to give umbrage the Orangemen of Ulster and intensely Protestant wing of

frength to extort from the mbarrassing concessions. It is true that er expressed a different opinion. As to France, no man alive to the complexty and gravity of its present situation ld venture to forecast even its immedito future. Nowhere else upon the Contint of Europe does the upshot of the develnents of the next twelve months so utterly

y prediction. The French republic has

LIBBURY'S following in England. But

haps none of these anticipated features

on and upset the Government as the ex-

frome policy is so likely to strain the coa-

pected revelation that it has bound itself to be perate with Austria and Germany, not

or the faithful execution, but the deffaut

Wher hand, it seems unlikely that the fair-

ade movement will, in the course of the

ext twelvemonth, acquire sufficient frength to extort from the Ministry any

ation of the Treaty of Berlin. On the

repeatedly during the last year encountered a Ministerial orisis, and it has just emerged from a Presidential or its which has exposed its Constitution to the severest tension. It its Constitution to the severest remaining is doubtful whether the TIRARD Ministry, which the new President needed a week to which the reassembling of the Chamber of Deputies. As by that time the temporary concord of Opportunists and advanced Radicals will have vanished, the construction of another Cabinet may prove still more difficult, so that M. CARNOT, whose election was halled as a pledge of harmony and safety, may, es he can persuade the Senate to assent to a dissolution, have in his turn to resign from sheer incapacity to form a Government. A second collapse of the Presidency from such a cause—particularly were it followed by the advent of M. FERRY to the post of Chief Magistrate- might so damage and discredit the existing framework of free institutions that France would lie at the mercy of a military or a popular outbreak, organized by royalist or by communist conspirators. The evolution of French politics, while it

might exercise a weighty influence on the relations of other European States, will itself be reciprocally affected by the predicament in which the unforgiven victor of 1870 may be placed by a disastrous issue of the predicted war with Russia. Whatever faction of the republican party happened to be in power at a conjuncture so exciting and what is true of republicans may be predicated with even greater confidence of an Orieanist monarchy—the Government for the time being would be swept into the vortex of contention by a resistless passion for national rehabilitation and the recovery of Alsace-Lorraine. Nor can it be doubted that, provided the balance wavered on the Vistula, the sword of France cast into the scale of battle on the Rhine would be apt to bring about surprising changes in the man of the Continent. The time has long since gone by when any one could count on the fulfilment of NaPoleon's prediction that. Europe would be wholly Cossack or wholly republican; but it is not yet impossible that the fate of the central powers may depend on the joint flat of a French Prime Minister and a Russian Chancellor. It is partly owing to the intricate concatenation of French polities with exterior events that the mood and action of Paris and of France are so incalculable even for a year to come.

What will be a year hence the condition of the German empire is also highly problematical. We cannot count on the survival of the aged and enfeebled Kaiser, and we know not who is to be his successor. But we do know that both the home and foreign policy of Germany will undergo a sharp deflection from the lines followed of late years, according as the present Crown Prince or his son. Prince WILLIAM, shall become Emperor before the expiration of 1888. It is universally believed that the present Kalser, notwithstanding the provocations received through the harsh treatment of German residents in his kinsman's empire, will spare no effort to avoid overt hostilities between Russia and his country, and that the utmost he can be brought to consent to will be an Interposition in case his ally, Austria, shall be attacked by the Czar. Old friendships, also, and a sense of personal indebtedness to the princes of South Germany, have made him rejuctant to connive at measures framed to bring about the gradual effacement of such partial independence as they still retain. He dislikes to recognize what Bis MARCK has surely pointed out, that in the event of a calamitous foreign war-and history demonstrates that a Jena is apt to alternate with a Rosbach—the cohesion and unity of Germany would be seriously imperilled by the large amount of autonomy and particularism still permitted in Saxony Bavaria, Wurtemberg, and Baden.

On the other hand, should both the Crown Prince and his father fail to outlive the coming year, the accession of Prince WILLIAM would, according to the opinion prevailing in Berlin, make it certain that nothing on the ruler's part would hold back Prussia in the path of outward expansion and inward consolidation. He would hold himself to have inherited his grandfather's acquisitions and opportunities without his obligations, and, backed by the hotheads of the to act as a spur than as a drag upon hi Chancellor. Prince WILLIAM does not seru ple, it is said, to avow a conviction that Ger many should be beforehand with its enemice and rivals, should forestall the inevitable but sluggish enmity of Russia, and in deal ing with France imitate the Scottish assail ants of the Red Comyn and "mak sikker." Neither would a sovereign who should fully concur with BISMARCK in opining that Prus. sia never will be safe until she has swallowed up South Germany, omit to seize or make in occasion for hastening the process.

Yet, after all, the elevation of the young Prince WILLIAM to the throne will only sweep away obstructions to the free play and out rush of forces already active. The effect of the more probable accession of his father in the course of a twelvemonth will be altogether different. Whether, in such an event, Bis MAROK would be suffered to retain the post of Chancellor, is now more than ever doubt ful since his recent strenuous endeavor to prevail on the Crown Prince to waive his laims to the succession in favor of his sonproposal understood to have been per emptorily rejected. This attempt to turn the grievous affliction of her husband to political account must have made the cup of bitterness so long held to the line of the Crown Princess run over, and she would be more than woman could she for give it. So that, even if BISMARCK on the score of his incomparable services to the House of Hohenzollern should be allowed o keep an office of ostensible distinction, it s tolerably certain that the staff of substan tial authority would pass from him to advisers more congenial to his new masters and more thoroughly in sympathy with their liberal and peaceable intentions. We say nasters, not master, because, should Kaiser WILLIAM be succeeded by his son, it is well known that Prussia would for the first time since the death of Queen Louisz see in the consort o the sovereign a woman deeply interested in affairs of state, and fully qualified for their supervision. Under such a régime the watchwords of German policy would be sincere conciliation of her neighbors on the ast and west, and at home a frank acceptance of the principles of federative and constitutional liberty, including the demand for responsible Ministry, so long urged vainly by the National Liberals as well as the Proressists. Thus we see that BISMARCK on the one hand, and all German advocates of liberal institutions on the other, have good reason to watch with anxiety the unfolding

of the new year. In Italy the new Prime Minister, Signor CRISPI, will encounter embarrassments even should he not be called upon to fulfil the obligations to which he is supposed to be committed since the renewal of the triple alliance. Although the expedition against Abyssinia has involved the despatch f some 80,000 soldiers to Massowah, reenforcements are already called for, and more will doubtiess be required. The sub-

jects of King Jone are relatively better armed than were the levies of King Tripo-pour, so that the issue of the impending conflict cannot be foretold with confidence. evertheless, should the Italians fall in a emonstration like that in which the english succeeded, the severe injury inflicted on their military prestige will be almost certain to provoke a Minsterial crisis. There are many members of the Italian Chamber of Deputies who think that their country is now making a blunder analogous to that which wasted the resources of France in Tonquin, and who rould gladly shatter at one blow the CRIBPI Cabinet and the whole diplomatic programme which binds Italy to wait upon the nod of Austria, and forego her unforgotten claims to the Trentino and Trieste. An appeal to the country would be the Government's resource, but with humiliation in the field and a deficit in the treasury, the successor of DEPRETIS would have his hands full to cope with his Radical assailants, to say nothing of the possible effect of the appearance at the ballot box of the Catholic abstainers, whose strength has been so signally attested in recent municipal elections.

Whether Catholic electors who already have been allowed to vote for municipal officers will presently be suffered to take part in a Parliamentary contest, is a secret known only to that statesman of the Vatitan who has faced a more redoubtable an tagonist than any he can meet in Italy, and carried his Church triumphantly through the perils of BISMARCK'S Kulturkampf. Whatever of good or evil the year may have in tore for the house of Savoy, it is likely that s compromise between the civil power and the Papacy will be brought somewhat nearer than it is now; for should disaster overtake the Italian forces in Abyssinia, the political assistance which the Clericals could ender might be looked upon as indispensable. The prestige, on the other hand, which victory would give might make the Government so strong in the affections of the people that it could afford the restitution of the nodest area needed for the independence of the Vatican. So that hope must, on the whole, predominate among the mingled feelings with which multitudes of Catholic are now pouring into Rome to attend the jubiles commemorating the auspicious completion of the fiftieth year since the admission of LEO XIII. to holy orders.

That the definite adjustment of southeastern Europe will not be carried a step further during the twelve months now opened seems hardly credible. If Prince FERDINAND of Coburg is allowed to go on ruling at Sofia, the treaty of Berlin will have notoriously become a dead letter, and the Czar cannot be blamed for treating all its clauses as invalid. Whether, on such provocation, an invasion of Bulgaria will follow, will be for the Czar's advisers simply a uestion of computation and opportunity. Among the unfavorable factors of the situation to which they must pay some heed may be mentioned the large grant of money for military purposes obtained by the pro-Austrian Ministry at Bucharest, and the still more recent retirement of the Ristics pro-Russian Cabinet at Beigrade. Owing to their strategic position, these Danibian principalities are, as was proved at Plevna, pawns of decisive value in the game for preponderance and conquest in the Balkan peninsula. Another serious obstruction to the hopes of Russia would have to be recognized should the new year see completed the long-planned connection of the Ottoman. Bulgarian, and Servian rallways with the Austrian network. The means of concentration which would be thus afforded would oppose so strong a bulwark to aggression from the north that the inclination of South-Slavic States to lean on Vienna might be

powerfully strengthened. The Sultan's insecurity is, however, not dispelled, because it has become the interest of Austria to defer the partition of his European possessions. He is relatively defenceless on his northeastern frontier, and, unless he can contrive to pay the money indemnity promised to Russia under the treaty of Berlin, he may lose at any moment his remnant of Armenia. Were that highland rampart carried, the inland plains and coast tracts of Anatolia would lie open to military party, he would be much more likely | the Muscovite. The expected sojourn of the gestive of intended operations in that nuarter. It certainly behooves the Czar, if a novement against Turkey from the rear is ontemplated, to anticipate the building of the long-mooted railway from the Bosporus to the Euphrates, which, there is some reason to believe, is at last to be vigorously prosecuted. As things are now, it would be such easier for Russia to extend her territories from Russian Armenia to northern Syria, and thus acquire a harbor at the northastern angle of the Mediterranean, than to reach the sea by way of Constantinople. It a the recognition of this fact that has led Sir HENRY RAWLINSON, Col. BAKER, and Col. BURNABY to advocate so earnestly the

Euphrates railway project. Whether Russia, already posted at Sarakhs and Mery, and within striking distance of Herat and Balkh, shall in 1988 avail herself of those coigns of vantage, will depend, of course, on the extent to which her resources are taxed in Europe, and upon the attitude sasumed by England toward the contest for power on the lower Danube. There is meanwhile little doubt that before the year is ended the trans-Caspian railway will have been pushed close to the shrunken confines of western Afghanistan, and that analogous facilities for a demonstration on the Oxus in the direction of Cashmers or of Cabul will have been at length acquired. Much progress also may be looked for during 1888 in another vast internal improvement, of interest not alone to Russia, but to the whole commercial world. We refer to the trans-Continental railway, intended to span Siberia from the Ural Mountains to the mouth of the Amoor River. Let that iron track once carry the armics of Russia to the oot of the Chinese wall, and the long rivalry of Western powers for ascendancy at Pekin will be settled once for all.

Proceeding eastward back to the American continent, we pause an instant at Honolulu, whose future is a matter of no ordinary concern to the United States. It is evident that the native Government is breaking down; that after a long term of fiscal wastefulness and administrative corruption, the Hawaiian Islands are now upon the verge not merely of Ministerial and dynastic revolution, but of utter anarchy. The voluntary submission of the people to some strong paval power seems the one practicable remedy for the existing state of things. But what power shall intervene? The United States assuredly do not covet territory in the midst of the Pacific, yet they would hardly view without emphatic remonstrance the annexation of the islands by Great Britain or by Germany.

One of the most important enterprises which it is expected the New Year will see begun in earnest in the northern half of the New World, is the Nicaragua Canal. It is undisputed that this interoceanic waterway is not only feasible, but would pay a high rate of interest upon the cost required. It

by private capital, and without efforts to in-voive the United States Government in need-less guarantees and awkward diplomatic omplications. It is satisfactory to learn that the year 1888 mayees the work of outting this canal approached in a reasonable way. In such an enterprise it should prove decidedly easier to enlist private capital than in the Panama Canal, which, in the judgment of nost competent engineers, will remain unfinished long after steamships are traversing the Lake of Nicaragua on their way from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The completion of this great work will usher in an era of prosperity for the Central American epublics and the Mexican provinces of Yuestan and Chiapas, such as they have not known since the Quiché power succumbed to Spanish devastation. Of the South American republics, those

which are most likely to be viewed with special interest by our citizens during the year on which we have now entered are Peru. Venezuela, and the United States of Colombia. The transaction by which the CACERES Government would have been freed from its heavy indebtedness to foreign bondholders and been assured of the completion of the rallway lines that would have opened the inter-Andean region seems for the moment in abeyance. If it be true that Chili has presumed to interpose her veto on a project of vital import to a power with which she is at peace, she may find that she has overstepped the limits fixed by international equity and enforced by the opinion of the world. The Peruvian common wealth deserves our sympathy, and we could not be unmoved spectators of a deliberate endeavor to condemn it to stagnation and decay—the less so that the development of taagricultural, mineral, and forest resources would offer a tempting field to American enterprise and capital.

The boundary controversy between Venezuela and Great Britian may at any time be forced upon our serious attention. The encroachments made of late years by the inhabitants of British Guiana on the Venezue lan territory lying east of the Orinoco are not easily distinguishable from those which. when applied to Central America, provoked vehement remonstrance from our State Department and led to the negotia-tion of the CLAYTON-BULWER treaty. Nor is it at all creditable to England that, although a strenuous attempt is made to persuade the United States to submit all future disputes to arbitration, this method of adjustment is persistently denied to a feeble republic like Venezuela. The British Government has refused to accept the United States as umpire in this matter, but it does not follow that our people can be held back from reviewing the pretexts upon which a European power is trying to control

he delta of a great American river. The one incident of moment to this country which may possibly during the new year take place in Colombian jurisdiction is the definite collapse of the Panama Canal Company, considered as a private corporation. We may take for granted that whenever M. DE LESSEPS shall be convinced that he can extract no more money from individual investors, a determined effort will be made to prevail on the French Government to sume the construction of the work. Nor can it be denied that the attempt would have many chances of success, should M. Jules Ferry, ostensibly or vicariously. ecome once more a potent personage in France. He was the candidate of the promoters of the Panama Canal in the late election for the Presidency, and it did not escape close observers that their votes were easonably transferred to M. CARNOT. It is thus not inconceivable that a French Ministry, in concert with the Bogota politicians, may try to acquire, without regard to existing treaty obligations between Colombia and the United States, certain territorial and political concessions on the Isthmus of Panama. Such a culmination of the canal flasco is plainly on the" cards, and should it be witnessed in the year 1888, the long-established sentimental relations between France and this country might be subjected to some tension.

The Franklin Revival.

Czar at Tiflis in the spring seems sug- printed on another page of this morning's Sun. Every new scrap of FRANKLIN'S writing that is discovered and published must command the immediate attention of people of all sorts and conditions, so broad was the nature of this typical American, so human his genius, and so interesting his life. A lot of hitherto unpublished letters

written by FRANKLIN to his friend STRAHAN, the London printer and bookseller, appear in the Atlantic Monthly for the current month. Still more important are the letters which Mr. JOHN BIGELOW has included in his new edition of the philosopher's works. and from which we select some of the mos characteristic and entertaining. A great mass of correspondence is thus added to the already voluminous autobiographical record, and the result will be a general renewal of interest in the FRANKLIN literature. No man dead a hundred years or there

abouts is better known to the men and women of to-day than FRANKLIN. WASH-INGTON is a shadowy figure beside him. The survival of BEN FRANKLIN'S personality in all the original distinctness of outline and detail, so that even Dr. SAMUEL JOHNSON is not more real, is due to the fortunate circumstance that FRANKLIN was his own Bos-WELL, in his wonderful Autobiography and in the numberless letters which the sage was in the habit of writing upon all occasions and with regard to all subjects that occupied his mind, no matter how mighty or how trivial. With perfect honesty and thoroughness, with an entire absence of self-con sciousness, and in English that will stand the centuries like the pyramid of CHEOPS. FRANKLIN put himself on paper for the benefit of posterity.

How vividly the man stands out in the score of epistles which we print to-day. If one had beforehand no clearer idea of FRANK-LIN's individuality than of PRESTER JOHN'S. he would nevertheless derive from these three or four interesting columns a good acquaint ance with almost every side of the manysided character. Here are the shrewd humor, the full command of his own faculties, the keen perception of the main chance, the adaptability of genius, the almost equal powers of generalization and specialization. Here is the thrifty yet charitable common sense that produced Poor Richard's Almanac and outwitted the diplomacy of Europe Here are the observer, the philosopher, and the universal Yankee, the metaphysician with his head in the upper atmosphere, and the practical citizen with his feet firmly planted upon the earth of buckwheat, wall paper, and kitchen gardens. Here, in short, are the qualities that made BENJAMIN Franklin at the same time an authority on dried apples and a PROMETHEUS bringing

fire down from heaven's thunder clouds As for Mrs. DEBORAH FRANKLIN-the faithful DEBBY, who appears in the correspondence-once more let maids and matues, and let the tear of forgiveness fall upon her unsurpassed cacography, while she

struggles with the alphabet in the hopest ondeavor to make "freekshonot" express her anniments toward the greatest of American philosophers, her spouse.

A Letter for Each Present

The laws of sense, taste, etiquette, humanity, and business all agree in regard to the proper treatment of such an event as is suggested by this question:

"Is a person bound, in etiquette, to acknowledge writing the receipt of Christmas presents?"

Nothing ever was given for which nothing was expected in return. Down to the intangible formality of thanks, something is always appropriate as a return for moneys, goods, favors, or courtesies. Even an injury is always followed by some sort of an exchange, either in the form of vengeance, coals of fire, or forgiveness. The business and social world, moreover,

is guided by rules of great precision. Very little is taken for granted. Little room is left for misunderstandings to gain a foothold. Formality is the law that governs, only in the social sphere it is made to appear in such easy and graceful forms that its character seems charming and impulsive, instead of stern, indispensable, and unvarying. When a woman accepts a man's seat in a horse car, she responds, or ought to respond, by thanking him. When a present is sent, the reelpient must not wait until he may chance to meet the sender, but the acknowledgment should be sent immediately. And when this principle is recognized, is there any argument for breaking it in Christmas time? Not the slightest. Christmas gifts are not given as a matter of course. They never ose the sweet quality of affection because about that time they come in clumps. The gift of one person in no wise robs another's gift of its individual merits. Each is an offering as distinct as though it had come alone and on the Fourth of July instead of in the holiday season; and consequently each deserves the courteous and formal treatment demanded by the regular laws of social interchange in all its forms. Write, then, to your friendly benefactors, and do not hesitate to offer to each of them the compliments of the season and the assurance of your most appreciative consideration, as though each were alone in his deserts. Nothing less is due.

To one with a dozen such letters to write the task may savor of too much formality. For such a state of mind, like the law for playing trumps when doubt creeps into the mind of the card player, there is a golden rule. Between too much or too little formality, always stick to the former. Formality never does any harm. Don't be afraid of it

Let the Government be Paid!

While the majority and minority reports of the Pacific Railroad Commissioners recite all the old history of the rascality that attended the building of the roads, they contain nothing new. So far as the present public emergency of collecting the money due the Government is concerned, there is no single fact adduced that is any more germane to it than the rascallties of Frak and Gould are relevant to the present status of the Erie Railroad.

There never was a more transparent piece of stockjobbery and blackmail than is implied and disclosed in the manœuvres that brought about the Commission in question: and nothing could be more natural than that the World of this city should have been the congenial organ and mouthpiece of the conspiracy. We have now before the public the two reports, the one a sensible and temperate consideration of the equity in the case, the plain, straight, commercial aspect of it, and the other an intemperate and senseless arraignment of persons and issues which are irrelevant, a mixture of stockjobbery and demagogy which might be dangerous if its own violence did not defeat its end.

The work in hand is laid distinctly before Congress, and the majority report, so far certainly as it deals with the affairs of the Union Pacific Railroad, defines clearly what course should be pursued. The President last year expressed the hope that the delib-We need not advise anybody to read the erations and investigations of the Commisletters of Benjamin Franklin, which are sion might lead to this very end, and it is ot surprising that this report should have his approval. It implies that the Government debt will be paid, and that the present honest and capable management shall enjoy its legitimate reward.

There should be short shrift and no mercy for the corrupt gang of blackmallers who aided by their congenial ally, the World, have infested Washington for two years and run riot in conspiracies of fraud and plunder. And is there any public fraud or quality of lying and deceit in which the World is not deeply and shamefully implicated?

A Fraud Upon the Democrats. It is a matter of interest to the Hon. J. WILLIAM HUSTED and the Hon. PATHFINDER Cors which of the two shall be elected Speaker of the Assembly. Most of the people of this State, however, are not suffering from insomnia on account of their nervous nterest in the canvass for the Speakership Mr. Cole is younger than Mr. HUSTED. but he has no particular advantage over him in other respects. Neither of them is finical in his ideas of legislation or of party morality. HUSTED knows Cushing's Manual, and ometimes follows it, when his doing so will not involve respect for the rights of the minority. Cole has all Husten's qualifications for the Speakership except experience and knowledge of parliamentary forms, practices, and precedents. The Third House doesn't care an Evening Post which of the two aspirants is elected. Cole is young, but not ingenuous. FAREWELL JIMMY is neither

ngenuous nor young. One thing about the Speakership should be kept in sight by all Democrats, and by all other fair-minded persons. Whoever is elected Speaker will be Speaker of a body essentially fraudulent. If the Republicans had obeyed the Constitution and allowed an enumeration of the inhabitants of the State of New York to be taken, the Assembly of 1888 would be a different body from what it is. If the Democrats of New York had not been deprived of that representation in the Assembly to which their numbers should entitle them, it is possible that a Democratic Speaker might be elected. It is certain that the Republican majority would have been notably diminished.

Whoever is elected Speaker of the Assembly of 1888 will be a fraudulent Speaker.

We wish many Happy New Years to the Hon. HENRY WATTERSON, and may the wild norses on which he is roaming about never hrow him and never kick him. He is com petent to do the kicking himself, and with espatch and vigor.

To all the other tariff sluggers and industrious, devoted Cobdenites we wish as many Happy New Years as they are capable of spending with enjoyment to themselves and rofit to the rest of mankind.

But when all personal good wishes have een wished and all free trade healths drunk, rotuberent and invincible fact remains that if 1888 is to be a Happy New Year for

the Democracy, free trade must have the To united, sensible, practical, conciliatory, sane Democracy a Hoppy New Year!

We printed yesterday a letter from a respected correspondent, who is a member of District Assembly No. 49 of the Knights of Labor. After expressing his contempt of the inamous Home Club, which has long controlled that body, he makes reference to its futile boycott upon The Sun, and takes occasion to try to relieve Mr. Powdebly from the odium it has brought upon all concerned in it, by say ing that "he [Powderly] had no more to do with it than the most obscure member in Texas or Dakota." This will not do. Mr. Powden-LY was not one of the original cotting conspirators who met in Trolast spring; but our correspondent over-looks the fact that Mr. POWDERLY was the President of the Minneapolis General Assembly of October last, at which the boycott was sus ained, confirmed, and ordered to be enforced And Mr. Powdenly took the wrong side, for he spheld the insensate and dastardly action of the original conspirators, under circumstance which prevent us from relieving him from his share of the responsibility for it. He took this course in ofder to feed the malice of the Home Club, and as a means of securing its suppor for other measures in the interest of the ruling ring. His friends would doubtless like to white wash his unclean action in this matter, but it cannot be done. He branded himself with the very brand whose marks have brought disgrace

o the original conspirators in the Home Club. Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS JEROME, a new deputy assistant of District Attorney FELLows poing named after the late WILLIAM R. That ERS, is the son of Mr. LAWRENCE JEROME. He s a graduate of Amherst College and of the Columbia Law School, and has for several years been engaged in active practice in Nev York. Besides being imbued with the liberal sm of the Nineteenth Century Club, of which he is Secretary, he enjoys the advantage of eing a Democrat by inheritance and conviction, and will doubtless be a creditable mem ber of the staff of brilliant young Democrats with which the new District Attorney has officially surrounded himself.

We scarcely need invite attention to the letter of our London correspondent, who decribes in another part of this paper the wretchedness endured by a considerable portion of the people of London—the poor who are out of work and cannot find it, or the still more pitiable people who will not work and live by egging, if life it can be called.

The distress seems to us extraordinary, and e shall not attempt to heighten the painful impression created by our correspondent's decription. The fact that in the last week of last September there were in England nearly three-quarters of a million of paupers, and that more than ninety thousand of in London, is a terrible illustration of the contrasts that still mark the highest developmen of civilization in the great capital of the globe where the newest theories of Political Economy have found their full application in the vaunted doctrines and practices of free trade.

Thank Gop such horrible pictures of wretch.

dness cannot be paralleled in this land.

Mr. A. H. ROTUNE of Norway, Minn., writes

o THE SUN in this manner: "In my last letter I predicted earthquake Dec. 30 Jan. 3, Jan. 17 and 18, Jan. 27, and Feb. 1. There is be-eldes ground for earthquakes Jan. 1 and Jan. 10." • •

The Norway prophet openly confesses that his last prophecy was a failure, and he wishes amend it. What sort of a prophet is he? He is no prophet. He should be suppressed and repudiated by all never-say-die prophets who boldly stick to their old prophecies like bulldogs, whether the earthquakes come or not.

Happy New Year to New York! With dayor HEWITT and Col. FELLOWS and all the other wise men and true to govern you, and only a few bothersome Comstocks and Quinns and Mosts to disturb you, this will be a twelve month to look proudly back on.

And to big young Brother Brooklyn, Happy New Year! Lucky like New York in having Democratic officers, and growing like a weed this will be a splendid year for you. Happy New Year, little Washington, Democratic power, which this year will hold no Mugwump alloy. Twice blest in having a Dem

by all, may nothing but bad weather, and little f that mar the four seasons next to come. Happy New Year to ancient Boston, supreme n the wave and in the ring. Certain you are to lose no glory in the approaching year, since no one has challenged your seamen and none

ocratic President, and with him a lady idolized

can whip your slugger. all the returns of the day. Beyond our reach by telephone, yet as truly in the family, and as much beloved as any cities, you will turn the year around to suit yourselves, keeping hot we are cold, and losing all the bobbing and tobogganing; but you will enjoy yourselves, make money, and grow apace, or ou

good wishes count as naught. Happy New Year to THE EVENING SUN, bright est, merriest, newslest, and most original of evening papers. Much of the joy of the coming year will be what you will shed. May you keep as far ahead of all your rivals another

year as you have in the past. And to the readers of THE SUN the happiest of happy leap years! More power to the strong among you, flore courage to the brave, more beauty to the belles, more clothes to the duder nore pay to the workers, more profits to the investors, more votes to the Democrats, better ealth to the weak, and good digestion and clear consciences to all, particularly to the young unmarried ladies; for it is leap year, and they may ask for what they want without

The Fact Pininty Declared From the Albany Journ

THE NEW YORK SUN thinks it time to deny the statement that there has ever been an understanding between Gov. Hill and President Cleveland "that the former should not interpose against the second-term campaign of

THE SUN says, with remarkable explicitness. that "there is no obligation, moral, political or personal in consequence of an understand-

ing with President Cleveland which preclude Gov. Hill from being a candidate for President in 1888." THE SUN tells the truth. The shrewdest po litical observers already see that events are rapidly shaping themselves in such a way as

abundantly justify THE SUN's statement.

There Can Be-There Ist TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I noticed in a recent issue of your paper—last Sunday, I think—an article headed. "Mrs. President tileveland." Is inst or-rect! Can there be a Mrs. President! Dat. 30.

Dat. 30.

Not only can there be a Mrs. President Cleve land, but, happily, there is one. She has of course no official title fixed by statute, yet her husband is Mr. President, and there is no mor correct or more convenient way of speaking o enstom has long sanctioned it. Everybody says Mrs. Senator Cameron. Mrs. General ,Sherman and so on. It is all right.

Peace in Memphia

From the Memphis Avalanche sult of consultation by mutual friends Mr. J. M. Kearing and Mr. A. B. Pickett have arrived a satisfactory understanding of the trouble between sm. The word "lie" was used by the appeal under the impression that the word "traitor" was used by the the impression that the word "traitor" was used by the Augianche in a personal sense. As such Mr. Pickett says, was not the intention, the word "lie" is withdraws

Geing to Pieces.

Stranger (to Washington guide—Are they stating rocks near the Capitol?

Guide—No. sir; the noise you hear is the bursting of residential booms.

You can cure a sore throat with the help of Dr. Jayne's

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

Trinity Church chimes drew the usual rowd of all sorts and conditions of men, women, and children to the head of Wall street last night. There were private carriages, cabs, nansoms, omnibuses, and a crowd of tramps, gamins, pickpockets, curiosity seekers, and respectable citizens such as no country in the world but this would bring so far for so little reason. And yet, in spite of whistles, trumpets, and small boys, there was a momentary hush upon the air as the ancient of days gathered the year that we have known and loved or hated, as the case may be, fato the great storelouse of the past, followed by shouts of welcome when chimes and clock proclaimed that the New Year was born into the world. The last week of the year has been given up

as usual to the junfor division of society's

brigade, who at numerous dances and Christ-

mas trees have had all the pleasure they expected, and perhaps rather more than was good for them. Mrs. Bradley Martin, Mrs. Corpelius Vanderbiit, and Mrs. Frederic Gallatin have had parties for children and half growns, which differed but little except in the earlier hours observed from the sumptuous entertainments given in the same houses for grown people. Indeed, it is a common saying among soclety girls whose lines have fallen in the world's pleasantest places, that at no subsequent period have they had the good times which came to them when midway in their teens. Dancing classes and germans in the winter, tennis matches, bathing, riding, and driving parties in the summer, with the companionship of bright, manly boys still unspoiled and unfettered by conventionalities, with just a dawning of sentiment now and then to give color to the fun. make a pleasant if not absolutely useful acompaniment to lectures on science and philosophy, and invest even the practising of scales and five-finger exercises with a tinge of romance. Many wise and prudent matrons think that girls who are within a year or two of their coming out are all the better for this preliminary training. The miniature theatre in which they move teaches them repose of manner, self-restraint, and that inevitable veiling of the thoughts and feelings which is not deceit, but which no man or woman on the vorld's great stage, be they ever so honest, can hope to do without. For the little children, on the contrary, no good mother desires any such experience; they grow old too fast as it is, and had better stick to their dolls and their hobby horses, their Santa Claus and nursery tales, without any mingling of social gayety. From the Adirondacks to Tuxedo there is

scarcely a place of summer resort that has not been utilized during the last week by its hotweather patrons for a chance of coasting, skating, and tobogganing, and for the ventilation of their lungs by oxygen from the mountain tops. Lenox has been knocked almost into the middle of last September by parties who have taken Curtis's by storm, ordered out all the horses in his stables, and ordered in all those that had been turned loose for the winter, to fiy with them over the smooth snowy ros any cart, wagon, or buggy that could be put upon runners. If the Duke of Marlborough, who pronounced Lenox the most fascinating place in the United States, and who showed such a marvellous affection for the oldest and shabblest vehicles that the village stables boasted, could have been there during the last week, he would have been more delighted with the Berkshire village than he was when he saw it in its parti-colored autumn dress. For, like many another man who has drained the cup of worldly pleasures to its dregs, the Duke has the keenest appreciation of nature's simplest means and sources of enjoyment.

It has been a gala week at Tuxedo, and those who are fortunate enough to be among its club members have had uninterrupted enjoyment of outdoor sports, without any of the frawbacks and hardships which seekers after those pleasures in unadulterated country fashion are sometimes called upon to endure. Where trained attendants are in readiness to adjust and remove skates, where blazing fires and delicate refreshments are always at hand to relieve the pangs of sold and hunger, where aleighs and horses convey the coaster and tobogganer from the bottom of the slide to the top, then the refinement of "roughing it" is attained, and the mountaineer becomes sybarite on skates or in snow shoes. Last night was expected to be the gayest of the week, as many went up who were detained at home, by the claims of children and family parties on Christmas Eve. The much-talkedof grab bag was therefore postponed, and was expected to form a feature of last night's jollification. It turns out, however, to be more of a ottery than a grab, as it was arranged that tickets should be sold and one person only be allowed to put his hand in and draw the packages out. Every package was numbered, and the holders of tickets received those that coronded with the number they had bought

There has been genuine enjoyment, with nuch less formality than of old, at the Club House during this holiday week. Toboggan uniforms have superseded dress suits in the evening, and even the ladies have substituted silk and cloth morning attire for full evening dress. Unmarried men have been as scarce here as elsewhere, Mr. E. D. Morgan, Mr. Fernande Yznega, and Mr. Peter Marié being almost the only ones unfettered by family ties. Not that the married men are absolutely without interest in the opportunities and appliances for flirtation which Tuxedo life so liberally supplies. As a bright young matron remarked. They are all quite ready and willing to avail themselves of the accommodation trains on the railroad of love, culling sweets at every stopping place, but obliged to be shunted off

before Hymen's altar is reached." The mysterious way in which young society men are effacing themselves this winter, and absolutely refusing invitations which hitherto they have been eager to secure, is a matter of derment in social circles. A gentleman who is one of the oldest of the Patriarchs declared he could not got a young man to accept his invitations to the recent ball, and, after be ing seven times refused, he gave it up, and sent the cards to his daughter's young friends

To-morrow the city will be nearly deserted with by the gay world. There will be a reception at !. the new Country Club at Orange, pigeor and shooting at Pelham and Tuxedo, skating Sunand tobogganing at all places where there ar pends or sildes, and general holiday makir only, everywhere. Tuesday morning will see jediate change and a general return of the runaws, M. (de Miss Remsen's marriage to Mr. Manice idephia occupy the afternoon, and the great New Ma Hait ball will fill up the night and the early hours cough

the following day.

Mr. Egerton Winthrop's supper-dance on Wednesday evening will be the next festivity in order, and on Thursday evening will come the Charity ball. The sale of boxes and tickets still goes on, only two being now left former, and seats in the dress circle being eagerly sought for at \$3 each.

No fault can be found with the rich of New York in the matter of their gifts and charities. Within the last few weeks the Cancer Hospital, which was built and endowed by one of the city's richest families, has opened its doors to the sick and suffering, and on Thursday last the large addition to William H. Vanderbilt's building for the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and which is dedicated to his memory by the pious act of his sons and daughter. was also presented to the city. Too much praise can hardly be given to Mrs. William loane for her graceful and womanly gift. The deed will carry its roward with it, for nothing that money will buy can ever give the solid and supreme content of knowing that every day of her life her munificence is purchasing comfort for those who but for her would suffer.

The exodus to Europe seems to be commend ing this year earlier than over. Yesterday's steamers took out a number of well-known society people, and the present month will witness the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Adolf Ladenburg and Admiral and Mrs. Charles H. Baldwin. Early in March Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Martin. who have only just returned, will again go abroad to spend some weeks in Rome, which is fast taking the place formerly held by Paris ca

a place of winter resort for Americans